

THE DESOTO COUNTY NEWS.

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HOLZENDORF.

Holzendorf, March 1.—These ideal spring days, the melodious songs of the mocking birds, and the sweet odor of the orange blossoms help to make life worth living in this favored section of grand old DeSoto.

Rev. E. J. Hardee preached a very impressive sermon here last Sunday to a large and appreciative congregation. After the close of the sermon Mr. Gabe Skipper was baptized and received into full connection with the Methodist church. Bro. Skipper is a young man of much promise and we hope the step he has taken will prove of much and lasting good to himself as well as to others.

We regret to learn of the illness of Mrs. S. E. Collins. Hope she may soon be restored to her usual good health.

George Mercer and beautiful bride attended church services here last Sunday. Mr. Mercer was recently married in Georgia and he is to be congratulated on his wise choice of a life's companion.

Thomas Skipper, formerly of this place but now of Crewsville, spent Saturday and Sunday with his old friends here.

M. H. Booth, a prominent business man of Zolfo, attended Methodist services here last Sunday. He was accompanied by his pretty sister, Miss Ollie.

Jackson Scarborough, a successful farmer of this place, has finished manufacturing his cane crop. He made 350 gallons of delicious syrup beside lots of sugar.

We are glad to learn that Mrs. W. R. Langford, who has been quite ill for some weeks, is much better.

Chester Skipper, a successful young school teacher of Zolfo, was visiting in our neighborhood last Sunday.

W. R. Williams has gone to the lakes to engage in the fishing business.

Charlie Lanier is visiting relatives in Ft. Myers this week.

Misses Nora and Gertrude Altman were pleasant visitors here last Sunday.

The farmers of this neighborhood are planting quite largely of corn, peas, rice and sugar cane. These are the substantial in this neck of the woods.

A handsome baby boy arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George North on Feb. 25.

OWENS.

Owens, March 1.—Bruce Knight, a prominent citizen of Charlotte Harbor, came up Monday and bought five hundred orange plants, which he is to set out for his father.

Carl Henschen of Sanibel Island was in the community Sunday. Carl is sure to show the girls a "big time" and I guess that some of them were glad to see him back.

Mr. Pelot is still planting trees on his place. He has one of the best pieces of orange property in DeSoto county.

Eldred Mizel, the efficient principal of Ft. Winder school, was up in the interest of his school. Fort Winder is Eldred's home school, and he has taught out his second term with such success as to receive state aid.

Miss Bessie Lastinger has been on the sick list, but we are glad to report that she is convalescing.

Dr. C. H. Smith was out Tuesday in the interest of his orange grove.

E. W. Pooser, manager of the P. W. McAdow grove on Lake Hancock, has recently moved to Arcadia.

Col. V. D. Carlton and Mr. McQuinn were over Thursday taking an inventory of our burg.

O. S. Harris was badly hurt last Wednesday afternoon. He was driving one team and leading another, when the rear horse became frightened and ran over the head wagon throwing Mr. Harris violently on the ground.

The infant child of S. I. Morton is very sick.

Wm. Wilkerson and family is visiting his sister, Mrs. D. D. Garner.

Our genial tax assessor, F. M. Cooper, made his annual call this week.

Mr. Woods of Georgia is visiting his niece, Mrs. J. W. Bullock.

Melvin Harrison and family was

IMPORTANT ORDER ISSUED.

Judge Locke Continues Injunction Against Drainage Scheme.

Judge Locke held a further hearing in the case of the Southern States Land and Timber Company vs. N. B. Broward, as governor of Florida, and others, today in the United States court. The hearing was to determine whether or not the injunction granted on January 11th last to restrain the collectors of certain counties from levying and collecting a tax for said drainage scheme should be continued during the pendency of this suit.

Judge Locke, in a brief oral opinion, in substance, stated that he considered the important question was whether acts of the drainage commission, authorized by the drainage act of last year were valid and binding; that the entire case showed that the scheme was to drain the Everglades, a vast and expensive work, and that the selection of the lands to be taxed and assessed for that purpose could only be made by the legislature, and, that the delegation of any authority to a drainage commission was void. The injunction was ordered continued until the further order of this court.

An Elegant Social Event.

One of the most enjoyable social events of the season was an "Observation Party" given by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Scott at their home on Manatee avenue, Tuesday evening, in honor of Miss Royall, of Richmond, Va., who has for some time been visiting in Arcadia. The guests who were present at this occasion were Mrs. Causey, Misses Mary Rainey, Judith Watkins, Ines Carlton, Mamie Simmons, Juanita McBride, Vess Parker, Mary and Lois Moye, Amy Granger, Pearl Johnson, Sallie Manget and Susie Royall and Messrs. W. B. Jones, W. E. Brpan, Dave Scott, Claud Jones, Spencer Royall, Ivey Royall, Austin Carlton, Edmund Scott. At the observation game, which proved to be very interesting, W. E. Bryan was the successful contestant and was awarded the prize, which was a tooth pick holder in the shape of an old shoe. Other games, both amusing and instructive, were enjoyed until ten o'clock. At this hour very elegant and dainty refreshments were served. The last part of the program of the evening's entertainment was several selections of music and recitations, all of which was delightfully rendered.

Card of Thanks.

To the many friends who have in any way assisted us in bearing our great burden of sorrow, to the doctors and to the nurse who so faithfully cared for and administered to our precious baby, we give our heartfelt thanks, and earnestly pray that when your hour of trial comes you may be blessed with such friends as we have had.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Treadwell.

visiting relatives on Alligator Creek during the first of the week.

J. H. Wilson and K. W. Mahon of Tampa are in Owens this week.

Messrs. Orval Johnson, Owen Johnson, D. W. Garner and Linton Perry and Mrs. Johnson attended church at Oak Hill last Sunday.

G. M. Moore was in the community delivering pictures for the Chicago Portrait Co. last Saturday.

L. L. Cato and family spent Saturday night and Sunday with M. T. Howell of Pine Level.

Rev. N. E. Norwood filled his regular appointment at Knight's last Sunday.

Clifford Williams, who is attending school here, spent Saturday and Sunday with his parents at Brownville.

Rev. J. E. McIntosh passed through Monday en route to Punta Gorda.

T. L. Hancock and wife was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smith Sunday.

W. T. Wilson is opening up a public road which when completed, will give us a nearer route to Fort Ogden.

C. P. Wilson has recently bought a tract of land near his father's farm and is preparing to set an orange grove.

Messrs. J. L. Dishong and Carl Hayman passed through here headed for the Miakka prairie on a camp hunt.

INTERESTING LETTER OF TRIP TO THE ISLAND OF CUBA

SIGHTS THAT ARE WITNESSED

Havana a City of Vast Interest.

Relics of Past Wars to Be Seen on All Sides—Many Important Points Are Visited.

Havana, Cuba, Jan. 1, 1906.—Having promised to write the News a few lines about my impressions of Cuba, I, after some delays caused by quarantine barriers, reached my destination some days ago and am now endeavoring to redeem my promise.

This is Christmas week, but it requires quite an exercise of the imagination for one, who has from early days been accustomed to icy atmosphere and snowy landscapes at this festive season, to realize that this is winter and not the rich days of an ideal June. Smiling verdure greets the eye on every side, odorous breezes regale the senses, and luscious fruits are in the greatest abundance.

Many Americans have the idea that since the United States for a time assumed control, and still regards the island as her protegee, with our increased travel, intercourse and trade relations, that American ideas, manners and language are dominant; but this is a most erroneous conception of conditions. No sooner does one pass through the narrow channel leading into beautiful, capacious harbor, almost encircling the city in its silvery coil, whose surface is alive with gondola-like quaudas and lighter tugs carrying passengers and baggage ashore, manned by swarthy and multi-colored crews, than he is overwhelmed with the feeling that he is farther from his native heath than is indicated by the map; he is conscious of being among a distinctively foreign people. This impression is strengthened when he places foot in a city of narrow, crooked streets; ancient architecture of Moorish design, constructed of massive, enduring stone; hills capped by castles and obsolete forts, the uneffaced relics of mediaevalism in the New World.

Havana is a city rich in historic interest. Here in the City of Columbus you stand on the threshold of American civilization. The ancient forts bespeak the early struggles of the contending nations for a foothold in the Western Hemisphere. These sanguinary contests between jealous, warring nations, the privations experienced in the early days of colonization, and the subduing of rugged untamed Nature, should command the most fascinating interest of an American. A man who has no interest in his ancestry will be equally unconcerned about his posterity, and likewise he who has no enthusiasm for our past history will have no care for our future destiny.

Soon after passing into the harbor is an object compelling the attention of all, but to which the eye of an American instinctively turns as magnet to a pole—the wreck of the battleship Maine. It is slowly but surely sinking; little is visible but the top of her foremast and the twisted and torn portions of her bulwarks and her upper deck, demonstrating the awful force of the explosive that was able in a second of time to transform a powerful vessel into a worthless hull. This pile is a ghastly monument to the corpse of Spanish tyranny, is faithfully symbolic of the complete destruction of Spain's once magnificent territorial empire.

"The Niobe of nations, there she stands. Childless and crowless in her voiceless woe."

In making out a list of points of interest to be seen while here, Morro Castle like the name of Abou Ben Adhem, "leads all the rest." To come to Havana and not visit Morro would be like going to Buffalo and not seeing the Falls. This old fortress situated at the entrance to the harbor, over whose hoary head more than three hundred years rest, once a warlike, challenging sentinel, now a peaceful guardian; her dark cells and underground passages once veiled in secrecy, now open to the eager explorations of the tourists. By \$1 payment, all necessary expenses are

covered to make the trip, including back hire, boat, and guide. This also includes a visit to the fortress, in which the guide points out the dungeons where were confined the distinguished prisoners; Lopez, a young man, whose hair from the horrors of his confinement, turned perfectly white; also Garcia and Crittenden. Here is also the famous Laurel Ditch, where Cuban prisoners were slaughtered in cold blood; without the form of a trial, they were made to kneel face to the wall and a volley was fired by Spanish soldiers from the rear. A bronze tablet costing \$15,000 as a memorial to the lives of the martyred victims has been placed in the wall, scarred and indented by the murderous bullets before which the doomed men knelt.

It is a great surprise to all, and a great shock as well, to find that no monument or tablet of any kind marks the original burial ground of the victims of the Maine. We tramped over the entire cemetery grounds in a futile search, and at last appealed to a negro grave digger, to whom we made known the object of our visit. We were directed to a neglected piece of ground which no one would identify as the burying ground of men who died in such a manner in a great nation's service.

The tourist travel is now heading this way; people from all over the United States are finding this a delightful resort. It is principally by these that we hear English spoken at all. Individually, I have found the greatest affinity in a crowd of Hoosier school teachers here on a like mission as myself, taking advantage of the holidays to make an enjoyable trip. There are at least a hundred and fifty of these Indiana teachers of whom about a hundred are women. These schoolmarmes in typical fashion are exercising the prerogative of asking questions of all who come within hailing distance, regardless of color or nationality.

Yesterday the entire party boarded the train for Matanzas, singing their patriotic songs at every station; they produced deep consternation, making the natives take to the woods, thinking the Americans had once more occupied the island. This same party, strengthened by our own three strong, besieged the President's Palace. President Palma finding himself so beset, offered no resistance, but ordered the gates thrown open to the assaulting party; and he, in person, received them in the beautiful state reception rooms. There are three reception rooms, one, furnished in white and blue, another in crimson with the escutcheons of Spain and Havana over the doors and windows, and another smaller one, which under the old Spanish regime was known as the Throne room, and is now the reception room of Mrs. Palma. These rooms are reached by a broad marble stairway with large mirrors in gold frames on the landing. This is the old palace formerly occupied by the governor-generals sent over by Spain, Weyler, Blanco, etc.

From Havana a tourist can go by rail to all parts of the island. From the car window the scenery is varied, picturesque and interesting, the tall feather-topped royal palms imparting a delightful sense of tropical color to the panorama of hills and vales. Passing through the country on the swift-flying trains—which make about three times the speed of our Arcadia division of the Atlantic Coast Line—you can readily appreciate the great fertility of the soil, surpassing that of our own country except the lands of the Mississippi valley, from which you can reap three or four crops in one year, without replanting or using an ounce of fertilizer. Scattered along the route can be seen the Cuban farmers' huts—the "bahia," constructed of the fronds and bark of the royal palm, built after the manner of the natives that inhabited the island when Columbus first visited these shores—the children playing around the door, depending upon their complexion chiefly for raiment.

The farming methods of the native Cuban is decidedly primitive. No

Green Corn in February.

On last Friday H. T. Stanton, a farmer in the Horse Creek settlement brought to town two stalks of green corn laden with well developed ears. Mr. Stanton has more of this crop at home and while the people in the frozen regions have to be shut in and roast by the fire what time they are shoveling snow, and live from their cellars, we can go out in our fields and gardens and gather our fresh fruits and vegetables. There is many thousands of acres of land down here that can be bought cheap and we invite the people in the frozen regions to come south where they will not have to shovel snow.

advance has been made in this respect for more than a hundred years. They hitch oxen to the crooked bough of a tree as did the Egyptians in the days of the Pharaohs. When you consider the richness of the soil and incomparable climate conspiring to produce so luxuriant a vegetation without much labor, you may account for his willingness to trust to Nature for a harvest.

The Americans are getting a foothold in the agricultural sections much faster than in the cities. A great deal of the farming land is now under the control of men from the United States, who in time will acquire all of the valuable part. American labor is being imported to cultivate the land, since the landholders have no use for the lethargic Cuban.

The Cuban is ostentatious and when vested with office he becomes the embodiment of pomposity. He is very much like the negro in the United States, he has a great craving for political office. In the army I am told, there is a desire on the part of every one to be an officer, none caring to be privates. And as a consequence, I am informed that the officers are almost as numerous as the privates. The standing army of Cuba numbers about 3,000 men, and one solitary gun boat constitutes the navy; but said a Cuban to me, "We have no need for a navy; we have Uncle Sam."

The Spanish language prevails everywhere, both in business and social circles. The Americans during their occupation of the island, did little toward foisting our language or methods upon the Spanish speaking people. Even the cabmen, who derive a great portion of their revenues from English speaking people, know scarcely a word of English, not being able to understand directions from an American, unless given in their native tongue, and not then, if your pronunciation does not closely approximate a Spaniard's rendering.

There is an opening here for American labor. I met gentlemen en route for St. Louis to procure farm labor for the plantations around Santiago; the price offered was, transportation, board and \$1.50 per day, with the opportunity open to the most capable to become overseers at \$75 per month. No negro labor is wanted by the farmers here.

Few Americans have taken out their naturalization papers over here. They prefer to hold their nationality in the United States. It is not a matter of sentiment, but a desire for adequate protection that prompts this course. Said one to me in a conversation: "There is no telling when a revolution might spring up, and then we would be amenable to the government of Cuba and likely to be drafted into the military service to fight for these lazy irresponsible Cubans." At present with Palma at the head of the government there is little danger, but with Palma gone, then perhaps the deluge.

If the time ever comes when the revolutionary spirit pervades the island, as it does in the Spanish South American countries, producing insecurity of property rights and instability in the governmental equipoise, the United States will intervene—a result wished for by many, especially the Spaniards—and another star on our national emblem will attest the "benevolent assimilation" of Cuba. E. E. MURPHEY.

The publication of the above splendid article from Prof. Murphey, principal of the DeSoto County High School, has been unavoidably delayed but will be none the less appreciated now.—[Ed.]

NOCATEE.

Nocatee, March 1.—Judge J. B. Cochran was in Bowling Green last Thursday on business.

J. I. Anderson sold his house of seven rooms and grove property located at Bunker, to John M. Bates of that place. Consideration \$1900.

Rev. Norwood of Owens passed through here last Thursday en route to Plant City.

Capt. Davis of Punta Gorda was a visitor here last week.

Mrs. Gibbs, nee Miss Effie Patrick, of Wauchula, was the guest of her mother, Mrs. J. N. Patrick, this week.

Miss Arnoy Smith returned Thursday from a visit to the Misses Hollingsworth of Brownville.

Rev. W. Savage filled his regular appointment at Ft. Meade last Sunday and has returned.

Miss Beulah Thomas spent Sunday with her mother, Mrs. Florida Thomas.

Miss Edna Hollingsworth was the guest of her sister, Mrs. W. G. Welles last week.

Leon Stroud attended the opera in Arcadia Monday night.

A party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Carey Carlton, Mrs. W. G. Welles, Miss Lessie Hollingsworth and Alex N. Page, went to the opera in Arcadia Monday night.

Maj. W. G. Welles went to Tampa this week. He will return in his auto which he purchased there.

B. F. Welles went to Tampa Wednesday on business.

A jolly party consisting of Misses Belle Murdock, Ethel Sharman, Claudia Carlton, Messrs. Steve Hooker, Harley Carlton, Kirby Carlton and Richard King of Arcadia, chaperoned by Mrs. Jerry Carlton and Mrs. W. H. Hooker, enjoyed the day in the woods last Saturday.

Dr. D. G. Barnett was in town Sunday night.

Melton Patrick of Winter Haven spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick.

Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Anderson were in Arcadia last week.

PINE LEVEL.

Pine Level, Feb. 28.—The people of this community gladly welcomed the new preacher last Saturday and Sunday. Rev. Owen preached two sermons Sunday, which were greatly enjoyed by all present. Many visitors were present and we will be glad to have them come again.

Miss Lissie Mizell is at home now, having spent the past few months with relatives on the east coast. She reports a very pleasant time.

Mrs. Hollingsworth of Brownville spent a few days here with friends and relatives.

Cicero Platt and family of Lily attended church here last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carlton and Miss Kate Green of Nocatee were among the visitors here Sunday.

Mrs. J. B. Sellers and daughters are away on an extended trip to Charlotte Harbor.

Andrew Green, Arcadia's popular postmaster, spent the day at this place Monday.

Some of the people here are rejoicing over the fine appearance of many orange blossoms. That means lots of oranges and plenty of money.

Contamination.

A party of young people were about to explore a coal mine. One of the young ladies appeared dressed in white. A friend remonstrated with her. Not liking the interference, she turned to the old miner, who was to conduct them, and said, "Can't I wear a white dress down into the mine?" "Yes, mum," was his reply, "there is nothing to hinder you from wearing a white frock down there, but there'll be considerable to keep you from wearing one back." There is nothing to hinder a Christian from conforming to the world's standard of living, but there is a good deal to keep him from being unspotted if he does. "Christians were put into the atmosphere of this world to purify it and not to be poisoned by it."

There is nothing to hinder the Christian from attending public balls, card parties and other like places of amusement, but when they do so, they bring into disrepute the cause they represent, the public loses confidence in their profession and their companions do not have the same respect for them as before.